

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 05015.0365U1
APP. SERIAL NO. 09/662,965

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
IRICK, JR. ET AL.) Confirmation No.: 3021
Serial No.: 09/662,965) Group Art Unit: 1712
Filed: September 15, 2000) Examiner: Short, P.
For: "METHODS FOR SLOWING THE)
DEGRADATION RATE OF BIODEGRADABLE)
POLYMERS AND BIODEGRADABLE)
POLYMER COMPOSITIONS AND)
COMPOSITIONS THEREOF")

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

VIA FACSIMILE 703-872-9311
Attention: Examiner P. Short
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.
Customer No. 23859

September 10, 2003

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment and Declaration is being filed in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) facsimiled on August 20, 2003. No additional fee is believed to be due as this Preliminary Amendment is being submitted within one month of the mailing date of the aforementioned Notice.

In relation to the Final Office Action dated April 17, 2003, please consider the Amendments and Remarks that follow.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.